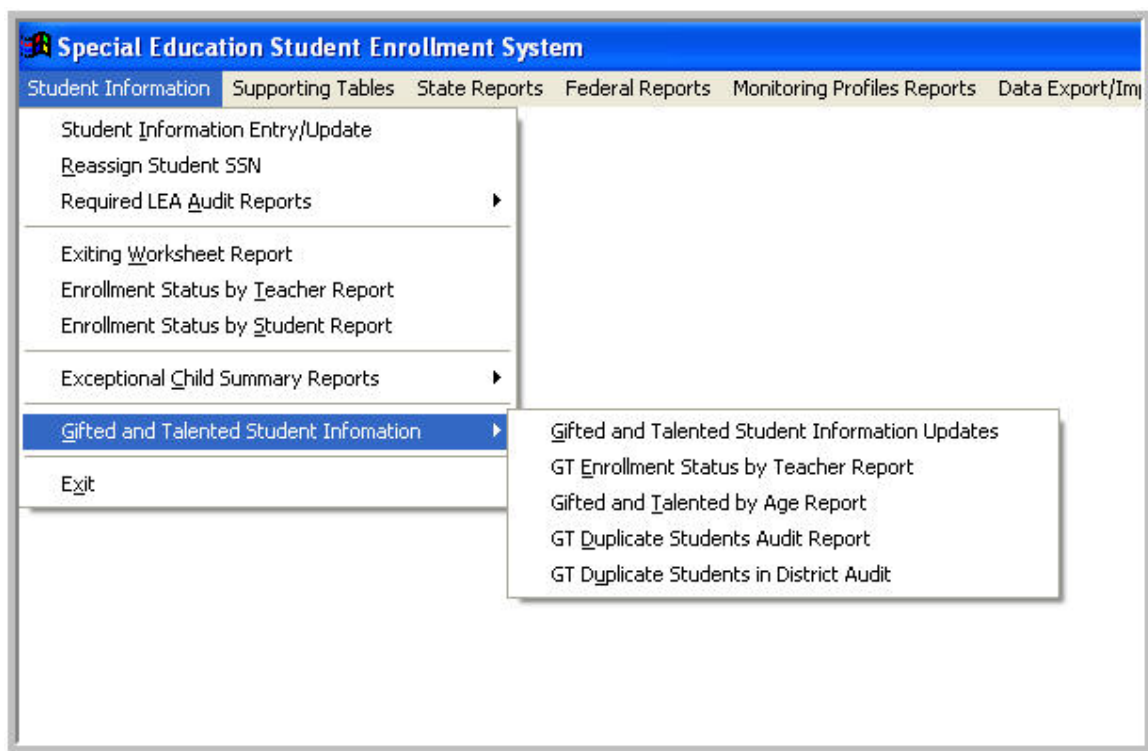**Information about the
Gifted and Talented Child Count**

Beginning school year 2008-2009 the SDE is implementing changes in the Special Education Student Enrollment System (Child Count) that should make the process of reporting the Gifted and Talented Child Count data that is required each year much simpler for school districts and LEAs. The changes that have been made to the Speced system have effectively created a GT child count application within the Speced system. The GT child count program has eliminated all of the requirements that apply only to special education students but not to GT students, thus reducing the amount of data entry and tracking that was previously required. You can see on the screen shot below that the GT child count now has its own menu under the Student Information main menu. This menu includes the data entry screen as well as all of the reports available for GT students.

All of the required data elements that must be reported for GT students are displayed on the screen shot below. You can see that many of the data elements required for special education students have been removed from this screen, leaving only those elements required for reporting these data for GT students. The only information that a teacher or administrator will be required to complete for a new GT student will be the demographic information in the top section of the screen, the grade , the GT service areas, and the district, building and teacher information at the very bottom of the screen.

Gifted and Talented Student Information

G/T Enrollment Info | G/T Enrollment List | Report Info

School Year: 2009

Student-SSN: [- -] Last Name: [ ] First Name: [ ] Mi: [ ]

Birth Date: [/ /] Gender: ● Male ○ Female Ethnicity: [▼]

Grade: [ ] Educational Environment: [25 ▼] Gifted Talented Setting

Exceptionality: [03 ▼] Gifted/Talented

Gifted/Talented Service Areas

Does Student also receive Special Education Services: ● No ○ Yes   Does Student receive Section 504 Services: ● No ○ Yes

If Yes, Exceptionality: [▼] [ ]

District: [▼] [ ] Building: [▼] [ ]

Teacher SSN: [- -] Teacher Name: [ ]

- *I encourage you when entering GT student data on the screen above not to use student SSNs. By leaving that field blank the system will automatically assign a number to the student that is unique to gifted students.*

In the past, students who were "twice exceptional" were reported as special education students and then their GT status was indicated by entering one or more GT service areas in the Special Education/Related Services area. These students will now be reported as GT and any special education or 504 services will be indicated in this section:

As you can see above, the default in both cases is No, so there is nothing the user has to do. However, it will be critical that this information is entered here if applicable, since no Gifted and Talented information will be reported in the special education child count, and this will become the only way of collecting data on these twice exceptional children. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, please contact Val Schorzman, the GT Coordinator at the SDE.

- *A note about teacher SSNs: The SDE is working diligently toward eliminating the need to enter teacher SSNs in these data collections. However, because the Special Education and GT child count system is linked to IBEDS and SSNs are still the only way of identifying teachers in IBEDS, they are still required to submit these data. Several security measures being implemented this year:*

> *The data will no longer be sent to districts and LEAs on CD. All exchanges of data with any personally identifiable information will take place via a secure website with password protection.*
> *No data will be exchanged via email.*
> *No reports within the system, both paper and dbf file reports, will include teacher SSNs.*
> *The final level of security takes place at the district. It is imperative that whoever is in charge of the child count process works to ensure that access to the system is controlled and that only those who need access to these data have access.*

Functionality within the new system provides several options for exporting data to and importing data from, school districts and LEAs. In the past, the child count program and data files, including both special education and gifted and talented students, was exported each fall, placed on a CD and sent to the district. The logistics of the data entry for GT students was left up to the district, but it was critical that the GT data was included when the district exported the data and sent it back to the SDE. The following options are available:

1. We can export the GT and special education systems separately and post them on the secure site separately, as unique systems. In this scenario, the 2 systems will be installed, and data entered, independently. GT users will have no access to special education data, menus or reports and vice versa; the data will be exported and sent to the SDE separately. This scenario would probably be most useful in those districts where the special education department is responsible only for the special education data and the GT department is responsible for GT data. A possible advantage to this situation is that, since there is no federal reporting deadline for GT child count, it would not be necessary to submit the data until January 15.

2. The other scenario is the default and is similar to the way in which child count has been handled in the past. The SDE will export both GT and Special Education data and program files as a single application. Districts and LEAs will install and use the program as they have in the past – the only difference being the changed data entry requirements for GT child count. Any user will have access to all the data, both GT and special education. Finally, all of the data must be exported and sent to the SDE by the December 10th deadline.

If you would like to receive your district's child count data and program according to the first option, it will be necessary to notify the SDE prior to September 10th. After that date, the data and program will be uploaded to districts as described in number 2.

Complete instructions for using the new GT child count features will be included in the ***Child Count Manual*** that will be posted on the Special Education page of the SDE website at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/.

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